**Parent Council meeting**

**Monday 23rd February 2015**

**Present:**

Elspeth McIntyre (Chair), Liz Mahindru, Amparo Ruiz-Prado, Fiona Hunter, Melanie Unkles, Claire House, Russell Bridges, Shona Barrie, Anne Fishwick, Justin McNeil, Carol Miller, Phil Goodlad, Selwyn McCausland, Jackie Clarke, Ann Low, May O’Donnell, Collette Haddock

**Impact of Catchment Area Consultation**

The council have approved the changes to the catchment area consultation document as submitted to the committee following a period of consultation.

The document which was submitted was different to the document discussed at the consultation meetings, in that it now include Old Cathcart (previously within Merrylee catchment but excluded in version1) and excluded the area to the north of the railway line on Kintore road. When challenged by a group of Kintore parents it was claimed it was not a “significant” change.

Justine McNeil represented the Kintore parents at the PC meeting. He informed us that meetings have taken place with councillors and that there is an ongoing campaign to persuade the council to include Kintore in the Merrylee catchment (see attached documents). The argument being put forward is that they have only had three weeks notice of the change to the consultation document and no opportunity to respond to it in the way the Old Cathcart community was able to. If necessary they will look towards a legal route. Phil Goodlad suggested it may be beneficial to identify other schools subject to a consultation process who had been similarly affected and lobby the council as a wider group.

Collette Haddock confirmed there are 4 children in this area that would now be required to register at Battlefield Primary. Three other children have siblings are already attending Merrylee and will therefore be treated as catchment area children as per the seven year rule.

Collette also confirmed 92 children have enrolled for P1. Liz Mahindru highlighted that the 2015 P1 intake is currently capped at 75. She also confirmed that the pods will be staying for another year to facilitate break out space.

**Breakfast Club school crossing patrol / Railings**

Concerns were raised over the difficulty to cross to the breakfast club in the winter mornings due to the parked cars and the lack of gaps in the railings. This concern has also been raised by a P2 mum. It was suggested that the lollipop man could be moved, however this has already been looked at. Cordia, who are the employer has identified where he currently stands is the most effective and suitable place as it serves as a crossing point for Merrylee, Limetree and OLA.

Liz had requested that Health and Safety come out to look at the railings following concerns raised by parents around lack of crossing points. H&S approve of the unbroken railing believing them to reduce the risk of injury to the children, however they are concerned about the open area in front of the community entrance believing additional railing should be added to stop children spilling out into the road.

The PC will examine other options to increase the safety of our children. Mel will email Baillie Josephine Docherty to ask if she can offer further advice and support to improve the road safety e.g. an additional lollipop man/ zebra crossing/ signs etc.

Liz will record every reported incident/ near miss to evidence the risk to the children for the Health and Safety Executive.

**School Lunches**

A P3 mum has raised concerns over the lack of choice available for her children, particularly when they are on 3rd lunch sitting. Elspeth attended a meeting with Cordia, Colette and pupils Health Committee to discuss school lunches. Cordia were receptive to the ideas from the children who presented their results from a survey covering 1st, 2nd and 3rd lunches. They suggested:

“Flavoured Friday” – Flavoured milk will only be available on Fridays.

“Tomato Tuesday” - Tomato soup is now on the menus on Tuesday.

Their next task is tackle the bread!

Cordia highlighted that the introduction of free school lunches to all P1 – P3s, has made things more difficult for them to gauge the ordering requirements. They hoped that this would resolve quickly once the 3 week menu had been completed and they had a better idea of what was required to be ordered.

They have also changed the way they prepare the food which is cooked on the premises from scratch by staggering the preparation of the food in order to allow all the children to have a hot meal option.

Merrylee kitchen provides the meals for Merrylee, Limetree and OLA.

The price of school lunches is to rise to £1.70 in August. It will rise again to £1.90 in 2016.

**Links with OLA PC**

Elspeth is to arrange a meeting with OLA PC so that we may work jointly around issues that affect both schools.

**Glasgow Parent Council Forum Attendance**

Liz has highlighted that these meetings can be very useful and has encouraged any member of the PC to attend. The dates of these are circulated round the PC when they are issued.

Fiona, Jackie and Mel are attending SPTC training.

**School Update**

The main issue is the classification for next year.

The School Budget is now closed. The money donated to the school by the PA has been spent on new furniture for P2 and materials for 1st level reading and maths.

**PC Budget**

Parent Councils are given £400 per year; this covers the web page cost, meeting lets and other small items. The remaining money in our account last year bought the school an iPad. It was agreed that the money remaining in the PC account at the end of this school year would be donated to the school.

**Parent Council Constitution / After School Clubs**

The Parent Council Constitution has been updated to ensure all after school clubs which are run by volunteers will be covererd by the PCs SPTC insurance. As they come under the PC umbrella, after school clubs will now need to submit reports to the PC to update on their activities and who is running them. These reports will be included with the minutes and circulated to the PC.

**PVG**

Everyone involved in the after school clubs are required to undergo PVG checks. Some members of the PC have also been checked. We will now focus on offering this to the PA and any other parent in the school who feels this would be beneficial. If anyone wishes to be PVG checked the forms are available from the office and once these have been completed please get in touch with Fiona Hunter or Mel Unkles who are available to check these and send them off.

**Date of next meeting 11th May 2015 at 7pm**